

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Currently, claims 1, 4-10, 12-14, 17, 18, and 21-36 remain pending in the present application, including independent claims 1, 12 and 21. All of the claims are directed to an apparatus for heat treating semiconductor wafers.

In the Office Action, claims 4, 11 and 19 were indicated as being allowable. The remaining claims, however, stand rejected in view of Walk, Gronet and Dobson. As now amended, however, it is believed that all of the claims patentably define over the prior art of record.

For instance, independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended to incorporate the allowable limitations of dependent claims 11 and 19. Various unnecessary functional limitations have also been removed from the independent claims. As now amended, it is believed that claims 1 and 12 patentably define over Walk and Gronet either alone or in combination.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to new claim 21 which, similar to claims 1 and 12, requires the tuning device to comprise a plurality of lasers that emit light energy at more than one wavelength. Again, since claims 11 and 19 were indicated as being allowable, Applicants submit that claim 21 is also in condition for allowance.

In summary, Applicants submit that the claims as presently amended are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in complete condition for allowance. Should any issues remain after consideration of this amendment, however, then Examiner Fuqua is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned at her convenience.

Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 04-1403.

June 23, 2004

Date

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy A. Cassidy", written over a horizontal line.

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